



Runge Conservation Nature Center

# Habitat Happenings

2009  
November/December

# Naturalists

## *Opening Doors to Nature*

Aristotle. Charles Darwin. Gregor Mendel. Carl von Linné. John James Audubon. John Muir. Aldo Leopold. Anna Botsford Comstock. Annie Dillard. Stephen Mather. Rachel Carson. E.O. Wilson. Jane Goodall. Sue Hubbell.

Do you recognize any of these names? Do you know what they have in common?

All of these people are or were naturalists. That may be an unfamiliar word to you. Naturalists are people who enjoy and are interested in the world around them. They have enquiring minds and observe every bit of nature to discover its origin and how it works together within the community around it. Through the eyes of a naturalist, a humble lizard is as awesome as an alligator. A naturalist can observe the behavior of a slug or a monarch caterpillar for hours on end.

Naturalists have open minds and are always learning. They are continually asking what, where, how, and why. Naturalists understand the importance of sharing their knowledge. Knowledge leads to understanding. Understanding leads to caring. The natural world is ours to learn about, to enjoy, and to care for.

Sometimes naturalists are referred to as interpreters. They interpret or communicate natural history to visitors. Naturalists share, record, and interpret their discoveries with others in a variety of ways. They write, sing, draw, take photographs, play, and lead interpretive programs. The naturalists or interpreters at Runge Conservation Nature Center are always ready to share their discoveries and their love of the natural world with you, the visitor. The next time you come in, ask for a naturalist – Traná, Becky, Alane, Amber, Kathy, or Robin. We will be more than happy to connect you with the wonder and beauty around us.

*Robin Grumm, Asst. Nature Center Manager*

# Volunteer

## Lobby Exhibit

~November/December~

### Wildlife Acrylic Paintings

Michael Landeros



Michael Landeros, a native of Southeast Missouri, currently resides in Benton, MO with his wife, Pam, and their two daughters, Madison and Macy. He is the owner of Sculptured Impressions, where he hand carves brass for embossing dies. His work has graced the covers of books, greeting cards and packaging for clients such as Hallmark, American Greetings, and Scholastics. Only recently, he started painting and carving for galleries. Through his realism on a hand carved waterfowl or painting, his passion for wildlife and its beauty is conveyed. Come view his wildlife paintings.

The following volunteer NATURALISTS were recognized recently for their contributions to the programs at Runge. Please congratulate them the next time you see them.

100 hours – Claudia Arnold and Linda Tremain

400 hours – Kent Hillman

3,000 hours – Jim Smith

Our volunteer NATURALISTS work in a variety of ways to show you, the visitor, the wonders of the natural world. Look for them behind the puppet theatre, under the story tree, hiking trails throughout Missouri, cleaning up trash along the highway, in Wears creek and at Binder Park. They can be found at a variety of community events such as Eldon's Turkey Festival and the Multicultural Festival. You will see them working hard on our events such as Haunted Habitats and giving programs for scout groups, Nature's Needlers, Little Acorns, and more. The list goes on. Volunteer NATURALISTS are the best!



## Closings

Runge Nature Center will be closed on the following days in observance of the holidays: Thursday, November 26th; Friday, December 25th; and Friday, January 1st.

*"Commonly we stride through the out-of-doors too swiftly to see more than the most obvious and prominent things. For observing nature, the best pace is a snail's pace."*

Edwin Way Teale (1899-1990)  
naturalist, photographer, writer

# For the little ones



Connect with nature through exciting and age-appropriate opportunities.

"If a child is to keep alive his inborn sense of wonder without any such gift from the fairies, he needs the companionship of at least one adult who can share it, rediscovering with him the joy, excitement, and mystery of the world we live in." ~Rachel Carson (1907-1964) naturalist, writer, environmentalist

## Little Acorns

Children 3 through 6 years of age are welcome to attend a Little Acorns program with their caregiver. This program is limited to 20 children, plus a caregiver.

## November

Call 573/526-5544 on or after November 1st to make your reservation.

### **Black Bears**

Black Bear, Black Bear what do you see? I see children looking at me. Lumber in with your favorite teddy bear and learn about the Missouri Black Bear. Reservations required.



### Little Acorns

Thursday, November 5 – 1:00PM  
Tuesday, November 10 – 1:00PM  
Saturday, November 14 – 1:00PM  
Wednesday, November 18 – 10:00AM  
Saturday, November 21 – 10:00AM

## December

Call 573/526-5544 on or after December 1st to make your reservation.

### **Good Day, Good Night!**

It's light outside and some animals are sleeping. Wear your p.j.'s if you'd like and we'll pretend it's nighttime while we learn about nocturnal animals. Shhhhhhh. Don't wake them up! Reservations required.



### Little Acorns

Sunday, December 6 – 1:00PM  
Tuesday, December 8 – 10:00AM  
Saturday, December 12 – 10:00AM  
Tuesday, December 15 – 1:00PM  
Friday, December 18 – 10:00AM

**Babes In The Woods** and **Little Acorns PLUS** programs are taking time off. We will return in the spring with fresh new programs for the youngest among us. Watch for those dates in the March/April newsletter.



# November Events

To make a reservation, call after **Noon on November 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

**8** Sunday 1:00-4:00PM

## Scout Table:

### Bird Identification/Flyways (self-guided exhibit)

**Ages:** All

Attention scouts and scout leaders! Here is a perfect chance to work on badge achievements. Visit this **self-guided exhibit** to learn how to identify Missouri birds, explore migration patterns, and more! Activities are also open to the public. No reservations required. **Wolves-Birds** (Elective 13); **Webelos-Outdoor Group**: Naturalist 4, 5, 6; **Junior Girl Scouts-Let's Get Outdoors**: Wildlife 3, 8.

**11** Wednesday 8:00AM-5:30PM

## Midweek Trekkers

**Ages:** 18 years and older

Runge Midweek Trekkers is a volunteer-led program designed to provide opportunities for people to hike Missouri trails and learn about our plants, animals, and natural communities. Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

**Rudolf Bennitt Conservation Area** straddles Boone, Howard, and Randolph Counties and is named for one of the men who established the Conservation Department. The area is 3,515 acres of forested, rolling terrain. We'll hike the **Moniteau Wilderness Trail** (10 miles, \*\*\*), which will take us through savannas, white-oak forests, prairie, and next to 48-acre Rudolf Bennitt lake. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

**12** Thursday 6:30-8:30PM

## An Evening With Women Naturalist

**Ages:** 10 years and older

•6:30 Meet and visit with professional women in the field of natural resources.

•7:30 Viewing of the film, **A Sense of Wonder** – Using Rachel Carson's own words, this film recounts her struggle as an environmentalist in the 1960's. No reservations required.

### Trail rating system

- \*Easiest Trail (flat terrain with no obstructions)
- \*\*Slight inclines and/or few obstructions (gravel, few rocks)
- \*\*\*Moderate inclines and/or occasional rocks or roots
- \*\*\*\*Occasional significant inclines and/or rocks or roots
- \*\*\*\*\*Most difficult (significant inclines, obstructions, and/or loose rocks)

**14** Saturday 10:00AM

## Story Tree

**Ages:** All

As the holidays approach and time seems to fly, take a break with us at the Story Tree. Sit back with your child and enjoy our tales. No reservations required.

**14** Saturday 8:00AM-5:00PM

## The Runge Hiking Club

**Ages:** 18 years and older

Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

This month we will visit **Rock Bridge Memorial State Park** to admire the park's beauty. We'll hike three trails, **Spring Brook Trail** (2.5 miles, \*\*\*), **Devil's Icebox Trail** (3/4 mile, \*\*\*), and **Sinkhole Trail**. This combination of trails will lead us along creeks and through beautiful woodlands. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. There is a chance the trails will be muddy. Reservations required.

**14** Saturday 2:00-3:00PM

## Art and Nature Series: Relief Print

**Ages:** 8-12 years old

Learn to look at nature from another point of view. This month's featured art technique is relief painting using a series of blocks and ink. You will learn how to roll the ink on blocks to make an unique wildflower picture. All materials will be provided. Reservations required.

**17** Tuesday 1:00-2:00PM

## Discover Nature Families:

### Woodland Stroll

**Ages:** All

Refer to page 6 for additional information. No reservations required.

**19** Thursday 10:30AM-Noon  
or 6:00-7:30PM

## Nature's Needlers

**Ages:** 18 years and older

The machine gun-like rattling call of the Belted kingfisher is distinct and easily recognized in wetlands across Missouri. Learn more about this unusual bird and create a kingfisher block to add to our "block-within-a-block" series. Reservations required.

**21** Saturday 9:00AM-Noon

## Discover Nature Women:

### Woodworking For The Birds

**Ages:** 18 years and older

Refer to page 6 for additional information. Reservations required.

**22** Sunday 1:00-3:00PM

## Wild Edibles Table Top Exhibit

**Ages:** All

We can eat WHAT? Find a multitude of delicious treats in the wonderful outdoors. From our own backyards to the dinner table, there is much to discover. Join us anytime during the scheduled time and explore the table top exhibit to learn a few of the tasty treats that nature can serve up. No reservations required.

**22** Sunday 3:00-4:00PM

## In Their Own Words

**Ages:** Adults and Parents with mature children

Join us as we celebrate writing that is inspired by the love of living animals and plants. We will read words penned by some of our favorite naturalists throughout history. Their observations of nature are as numerous and varied as they are, so we are limiting our selections. Come see who we feature and bring a short selection written by your favorite naturalist. We will set aside time for you to read, if you choose. Reservations required.

**27** Friday 10:00AM-3:00PM

## Shopping Alternatives:

### Let's Talk Turkey

**Ages:** All

If you do not want to shop, join us for a day of talking turkey. Eastern Wild Turkey exhibits, games, activities and crafts for the entire family! Don't miss this special event. No reservations required.



Fall Archery Turkey Season:  
September 15–November 13, 2009  
November 25–January 15, 2010

# December Events

To make a reservation, call after **8:00AM** on **December 1st** to register for these programs (573/526-5544). If you must cancel, please call as soon as possible, so someone on the waiting list may attend. Thank you.

**5** Saturday 8:00AM-3:00PM

## The Runge Hiking Club

**Ages:** 18 years and older

Learn about our wondrous state! Each month, we'll meet at the nature center, car pool to one of Missouri's choice hiking spots, and hike one or two of the best trails.

Situated where the main east-west land route intersected the Missouri River, Arrow Rock was an early crossroads of all sorts. The Osage Trace, Boone's Lick Trail, and the Sante Fe Trail all crossed here. In 1808, William Clark wrote in his journal that Arrow Rock was "a handsome Spot for a Town." We'll hike the **Pierre A Fleche Trail** (1.5 miles, \*\*\*), which begins at the **Arrow Rock State Historic Site** visitor center. Bring your lunch, water, hiking boots or comfortable shoes, and come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

**5** Saturday 1:00-2:30PM

## Discover Nature Families:

### Winter Woodpeckers

**Ages:** 8 years and older

Refer to page 6 for additional information. Reservations required.

**9** Wednesday 8:00AM-5:00PM

## Midweek Trekkers

**Ages:** 18 years and older

Many pioneers from Kentucky and Tennessee settled in the Ozark hill country, perhaps because the area reminded them of their Appalachian homeland. We'll explore some of this country in the **Mark Twain National Forest** and find a hidden natural tunnel on the **Kaintuck Trail** (6 miles, \*\*\*\*) on the Mill Creek Area, which is owned by the U.S. Forest Service, Houston/Rolla District. We'll eat lunch along the trail, so bring a small pack, your lunch, and water. Hiking boots are recommended for this trip. Bring a flashlight if you want to explore inside the tunnel. Also, come dressed for the weather. Reservations required.

**10** Thursday 7:00-8:00PM

## Why Count Birds?

**Ages:** Adults

Retired Missouri state ornithologist, James D. Wilson, will present a program on the importance of the annual bird counts. These include the spring and Christmas Audubon bird counts, along with the USGS Breeding Bird Surveys. Program sponsored by the River Bluffs Audubon Society. No reservations required.

**11** Friday 1:00-2:30PM

## Homeschool: Winter Woodpeckers

**Ages:** 8 years and up

Winter is for the birds, and woodpeckers are no exception. Join us to learn all about these "hard-headed" avian friends through an indoor program, guided walk, and woodpecker craft. Reservations required.

**12** Saturday 2:00-3:00PM

## Art and Nature Series:

### Holiday Cards

**Ages:** 8-12 years old

Learn to look at nature from another point of view. Plants and animals alike will be highlighted on your very own holiday cards. Previously learned or newly taught skills will be utilized to create cards during this **Art and Nature** program. All materials will be provided. Reservations required.

**13** Sunday 2:00PM

## Story Tree

**Ages:** All

As the holidays approach and time seems to fly, take a break with us at the Story Tree. Sit back with your child and enjoy our tales. No reservations required.

**17** Thursday 10:30AM-Noon  
or 6:00-7:30PM

## Nature's Needlers

**Ages:** 18 years and older

The mourning dove's name, derived from its low mournful *whooo, hoo, hoo, hoo* call, is one of Missouri's most common game birds. This month we will focus on the mourning dove and create a block to add to our "block-within-a-block" series. Reservations required.

**19** Saturday 10:00AM

## Food Chain

**Ages:** All

Starting with the sun, all living things are connected. Can you find the link between poison ivy and deer? How about between your garden and bald eagles? All things in nature are linked. Join us today for a fun-filled hour recognizing these links. There will be live animals who are hungry to demonstrate the food chain for you. Reservations required.

**27** Sunday 3:00-4:00PM

## In Their Own Words

**Ages:** Adults and Parents with mature children

Join us as we celebrate writing that is inspired by the love of living animals and plants. We will read words penned by some of our favorite naturalists throughout history. Their observations of nature are as numerous and varied as they are, so we are limiting our selections. Come see who we feature and bring a short selection written by your favorite naturalist. We will set aside time for you to read, if you choose. Reservations required.

**29** Tuesday 10:00AM-4:00PM

## Teen Club – Eagle Adventure!

**Ages:** 12-17 years old

Meet at Runge and be prepared to venture into the world of the bald eagle. We will learn some of the eagle's natural history as we try out some hands-on activities and take a trip to nearby eagle-sighting spots. Bring a sack lunch, binoculars, if you have them, and wear warm clothes. We WILL go outside! A permission form will need to be signed when you arrive. Reservations required.

## Holiday Happenings

December 28-30

10:00AM - 4:00PM

*Refer to last page for additional information. No reservations required.*

*"What we lose in our great human exodus from the land is a rooted sense, as deep and intangible as religious faith, of why we need to hold on to the wild and beautiful places that once surrounded us." ~From "Small Wonders: Essays", by Barbara Kingsolver*



# MDC DISCOVER nature

Programs

Programs



Discover Nature Families programs are designed to help adults and children explore nature and master outdoor skills together.

**November 17** 1:00-2:00PM

## Woodland Stroll

**Ages:** All

Bundle up and enjoy the crisp, autumn air as we embark on a journey along the Runge Nature Center trails to look for signs of wildlife. We will search for tracks, scat, and animal homes on this stroller accessible nature walk. This program is geared for families with young children, but is open to all ages. No reservations required.

**December 5** 1:00-2:30PM

## Winter Woodpeckers

**Ages:** 8 years and older

Winter is for the birds, and woodpeckers are no exception. Join us to learn all about these "hard-headed" avian friends through an indoor program, guided walk, and fun children's craft. Reservations required. Make your reservation beginning December 1st.

*"If I were to name the three most precious resources of life, I should say books, friends, and nature; and the greatest of these, at least the most constant and always at hand, is nature."* ~John Burroughs (1837-1921), American

essayist and naturalist



\*Girls aged 14-17 also are welcome when accompanied by an adult woman.

**November 21** 9:00AM-Noon

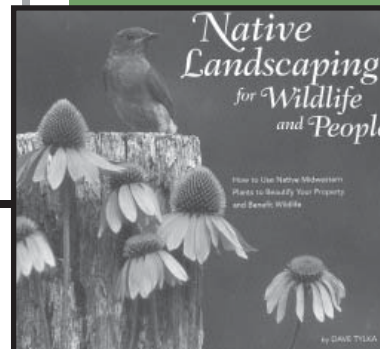
## Woodworking for the Birds

**Ages:** Adult Women\*

This workshop is for the birds and for you. Participants will learn the natural history of common backyard birds and techniques for attracting them. We'll spend time outside looking at bird feeders and box placement then go inside to build a bluebird box and a bird feeder for participants to take home with them. No woodworking experience is necessary and all materials will be provided. Reservations required. Make your reservation beginning November 1st.

## Nature Shop News

November/December featured item



**20% OFF**

This book gives plenty of ideas about how to use native Midwestern plants to beautify your property and benefit wildlife.

Discounted Price: \$14.40  
Heritage card discount does not apply.

2010 Natural Events and  
Missouri's Outdoor Heritage  
Calendars have arrived.  
\$7.00 each



# Conservation Kids' Club

Welcome to Conservation Kids' Club, a fun club created for kids 6 through 12 years old who love to explore nature and learn about wildlife.

When you make your reservation (573/526-5544), please provide the name of each member, their age, and the number of siblings attending the Little Acorns program to help us better prepare. Thank you.

## Nature Gifts From The Heart

**Tuesday, November 17– 6:30-8:00PM**

(Make your reservation between November 1 and November 13.)

Nature provides gifts every day. Come spend time with your friends and create home-made nature gifts for your loved one.

**There will not be a Conservation Kids' Club program during the month of December.**

*Dear CKC Friends,*

*I will miss you froggily (dearly) this month. It is time to take a froggy breather, and enjoy some time with family and friends. Have a wonderful December and I'll see you in January 2010!*



*Love,  
BUBBA*

## Hey, Parents!

While big brother/sister attends Conservation Kids' Club, your preschooler (3 through 6 years of age) can be involved in a program at the same time. A preschool program will be available for **siblings** of Conservation Kids' Club members on **Tuesday, November 17th. There will not be a program in December. Parents, please limit your Little Acorn reservations to one program each month.**



## ***Habitat Happenings***

Runge Conservation Nature Center  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Jefferson City Missouri  
Permit No. 274

*Mark your calendar...*



# **Holiday Happenings**

**December 28 - 30**  
**10:00<sub>AM</sub> - 4:00<sub>PM</sub>**

Additional information will be in the January/February newsletter.

Nature Crafts  
Fireside Storytelling  
Music  
Nature Games  
Free Refreshments

"Every citizen has a responsibility toward this planet. I'm counting on the new generation coming up. I have to believe in their spirit as those who came before me believed in mine."

~Margaret Murie (1902-2003) naturalist, author, conservationist, and adventurer